

A  
Faithful Account  
OF THE  
CRUELITIES

Done to the  
Protestants,



On Board the  
*French* King's Gallies,

On the Account of the  
*Reformed Religion.*

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Done out of French.

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ARTICLES

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AN  
 A B S T R A C T  
 OF  
 Some Letters,

Wherein are related

The horrible Cruelties done to  
 the *French* Protestant Slaves on  
 Board the Gallies, on the Account  
 of the *Reformed Religion*.

**T**HE *French Nation*, which has  
 formerly valued it self above  
 all the World for its *Humanity*  
 and *Generosity*, is no longer to  
 be known by either of these Characters.  
 For, alas, the Spirit of Persecution has so  
 imbitter'd the Tempers of such as were  
 otherwise good-natur'd, that nothing in  
 the whole World comes nigh them for  
*Cruelty* and *Barbarity*. We have seen no-  
 A 2 . . . thing

#### 4 *The Cruelties of the French to*

thing so horrible since the Account of the Outrages committed in the *Spanish Conquest of America*, published by *Bartholomew de Casas*, one of their Bishops.

The *French* Protestants have for a long time been silent under the Severity of their ill Usage, or have only whisper'd their Complaints of it. The Reason of which may be easily guess. But now their barbarous Persecutors have carried things to that Extremity, that there is nothing left them either to hope or fear. The worst that can be done to these faithful Servants of God, is, to kill them; the only thing in the World which they most wish. Now, that we might not be tempted to aggravate any thing in this Account, we have strictly kept to the Relation given us in the Letters of such as are the daily Spectators of these horrible Objects; amongst which, some are of the *Roman Communion*.

We might have given the World a more methodical and more moving Account of these Matters, but we thought it best to leave it to *Nature* to speak without *Art*; the Air of *native Simplicity* being more proper to convince all People that here is nothing invented or unsincere. In short, we have extracted nothing out of those Letters



Letters but pure Matters of Fact. For if we should have made Reflections on these things, we should have made a Volume; a very instructive one indeed; for we should then have seen the marvellous Submission, Patience, and Resignation of those *holy Confessors*. That Exactness to which one that copies from others is restrained, will compel us to make some Repetitions of the same things; but these are so many different *Witnesses* and *Testimonies* of the same Matters of Fact. And yet we have shunn'd Repetitions as much as possible, and have written nothing but what we can prove by several Letters.

**O**N E *John Soulage*, a plain and innocent Youth of *Sainte Cruce* in *Sevena*, a Slave on Board the Gally called the *Gal-lant*, being in the Summer Campaign 1699. having constantly refused to pull off his Hat before the Hoste after many instances, received at first a Thousand Abuses by Words, Kicks, and Blows with a Cane, before they brought him to the *Bastonnade*. And as the Martyr continued to refuse it with Resolution; the Captain, accompanied with other Officers and the Chaplain, ordered him to be stript stark naked, and to be laid at his full stretch upon the Coursey;

## 6    *The Cruelties of the French to*

(that is, the place on which the Officers walk, betwixt the Benches of the Slaves) and made them give him so cruel a *Bastonnade*, that the Chaplain, fearing lest his Victim should die on the spot, ordered them to give over; saying, It is enough. This poor *Soulage* received so many Blows both on the *Coursey* and the *Benches*, that it flead off all his Skin, and instead of Skin, his Body was crufted over with one entire Scab, under which abundance of purulent Matter bred; and by the Blows given him he lost one of his Arms. Infomuch, that the Chirurgeon told the Comite, that is, the Boat-swain of the Slaves, that if they persisted in beating this poor Young Man, he could not live four days longer: upon which these Executioners ceased their Outrages a little while.

*Decemb. 15. 1699.* You have here that which we hear has been done on board the Gallies, called the *Valor*, the *Queen*, the *Gallant*, the *Renown*, and others. They have given the Bastonnade twice or thrice in the Harbour, and at Sea. *Peter Sauvet* of *Montelus* in the Diocese of *Uzes*, is dead of it. *Israel Bouchet*, *Lewie Isoire*, and *John Vian*, have undergone the same Punishment. An Officer of the Stern sent  
for

for the said *Sauvet*, and another called *John Vian*, to make them see how the Backs of the others were mangled, and all of a gore Blood, to terrifie them; and indeed this Sight, together with the cruel Blows they received, was very terrible. But notwithstanding all this, they persevered constantly, and in a few days after *Sauvet* died of their Barbarity.

In *February* 1700. the Chaplain of the *Magnanime* ordered Mr. *Anthony Capduc* to be most cruelly bastonade'd, because he had (as he said) lately complied, and would not do it now, being penitent for his Fall. This blessed Servant of God suffered this Torment with an admirable Patience. They thought the next Day to fright him into a Compliance, by the Terror of renewing the same Punishment. But he answered, *He was ready for it, and had but one Life to lose for his Saviour's Sake.* And accordingly he was on the 2d of *February* stretched all along, and bound fast with Cords to two cross pieces of Timber, to make him assist at the Saying of the *Mass*, and gave him at the same time a thousand Blows on his Back. This lamentable Sight occasioned the Slaves to give little Attention to the *Mass*. At the

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8      *The Cruelties of the French to*

same time *Francis Augier* and *James Piemarin* suffered a cruel Bastonade because they would not put off their Caps to the Hoste. *Augier* underwent it twice, and they had a mind to bring him to it the third time, but the Surgeon prevented it, by saying, that if they did it, the Man would give up the Ghost under the Blows. And indeed he was very sick, and like to die of it.

*August the 9th*, they gave the Bastonade to *Israel Bonchet*, a Slave on board the *Renown*, but a more barbarous one to *David Laget*, on board the *Magnificent*, because he refused to reverence the Hoste. The Captain told him, that he was to be bastonaded either till he comply'd, or should die under the Blows: and indeed, by being so cruelly used, he was left nearer Death than Life. But for all that, they have renewed the Punishment this very day, *August the 9th*, and caused a lusty and strong *Turk* to strike above *One hundred Blows* upon his naked Body. The Execution being over, and the Man unable to stir Hand or Foot, he was taken up by four Men, and cast into the *Rougeole* (that is, the Sink of the Galley) loaden with Chains. And a *Turk* having uttered some words,

words, expressing his Compassion, was laid on the Coursey, and received the Bastonade for it.

*March the 25th, 1700. Anthony Capduc, Francis Augier, Israel Bouchet, James Piemarin, and others, have been handled with the utmost Cruelty. But particularly John Soulage hath been so ill used, that he is past Recovery. His Body being made at first but one Wound, it turned afterwards into a vast Ulcer. When urged to comply, he answer'd, both with an admirable Courage and Meekness, That it was better to obey God, than Men; and that, for his part, he was ready to suffer Death. John Durand, on board the Magnanime, was as ill used as the others.*

*August the 18th. Talon and Saussset, on board the Dauphine, endured a sharp Bastonade, and notwithstanding all they remained Constant and Unmoveable. The Captain ordered the Boat-swain to bang these miserable Men to Death, if they persisted in their refusal; which was performed accordingly, for they made a fresh Onset upon these two, viz. Talon and Saussset, as well as upon Israel Bouchet in the Renommé, and upon another named Bernhard.*

*August the 20th. Besides the afore said*

*A. S.*

*Talon*

10 *The Cruelties of the French to*

*Talon* and *Saussët*, they have this very day inflicted, in the most cruel manner, the same Punishment on Mr. *Dumouin* and Mr. *Boisques*, Gentlemen born. It is very fit that their Courage and Patience should be known by the Testimony of a *Roman* Catholic: The Contents of his Note, dated *August* the 20th, are these. A few days ago they so outrageously abused these miserable Men, that it deserves Compassion; they gave the Bastonade to two of them, and this Morning to four; among whom are these Gentlemen Mr. *Boisques* and Mr. *Dumouin*. I am not able to express how courageously they suffered it. There is something extraordinary in the Case. A poor old Man of *Vivarets*, on board the *Brave*, who had some days since undergone it, remained deprived of all Sense and Motion under the Blows: But for all that, they gave him as many Blows as were appointed. In short, I could not be able to tell you how patiently they suffer. Let us pray to *God Almighty*, that he will be pleased to strengthen them, that they may bear up under the Torments prepared for them.

*August* the 16th, 1700. One *Faguin*, a Profelyte, is this very day to be removed from the *Warlick* Galley into the *Faithful*,  
where



*the Protestants in the Galleys.* 11

where is one *D' Aubigne*, another *Profelyte*, who has embraced our Religion under the Cross. They are to be tried by a *Council of War*, and to die under the *Bastonade*.

*October the 6th, 1700.* They give every day the *Bastonade* in four or five Galleys, but so cruelly, that the Sufferers of it are almost kill'd by it. They spare neither Young, nor Old; Disabled, nor Sick; Gentlemen, nor Scholars; their Rage reaches to all; they have already given the *Bastonade* to a very great Number of People.

*October the 15th, 1700.* Mr. *Serres Senior*, *Morin*, *Carriere*, *Loftalet*, *Alexander Astier*, *Anthony Grange*, *Andrew Pelican*, and *Pelcivier*, have been used with the most barbarous Cruelty that can be thought on, and brought to the last Extremity, and afterwards they have been carried to the *Hospital*.

There are on board the *Old Reale* a great many of our Brethren, Old, Maim'd, and Disabled; among whom there is an eminent one, viz. Mr. *Andrew Valette*, who was in Summer time put near an Oven, that he might burst with the Heat and Smoke thereof; and in Winter time shut up into the *Rougeole*; that is, the Sink of the Galley, where all the Water and Filth of the Ship runs, and where the Cold is sharper than any where else. The

**The ABSTRACTS** of several  
other Letters from *Marseilles*, concern-  
ing the *Sufferings of the Confessors*,  
since the things beforementioned in  
the Letters, dated the 9th and  
20th of August.

**S**eptember the 20th and 24th, Our dear  
Brethren, the three *Dumouin Brothers*,  
and three others, have suffered *Fifty Blows*  
each; and the next day the same Punish-  
ment was inflicted on them.

About the same time they gave a very  
severe Bastonade to a Slave on board the  
*Strong*, because he would not be uncovered  
at the time of the Service of the *Popish*  
*Religion*.

Some of our Brethren, the Slaves on  
board the *Queen Galley*, were used after the  
same manner: Particularly *David Volle*,  
born in *Piedmont*, who twice suffered the  
Bastonade. He was searched as well as  
*Peter Gay*, and all their Books and Letters  
taken from them. Our Brother *Fourtelet*  
died September the 13th, well disposed and  
prepared for it.

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The same Letters say, That on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September both Mr. *De Montolieu*, the Commander, and the Major, went on board the *Warlick*, and because the *Argouzin*, that is, the Boat-swain's Mate, had not fetter'd and bound up the Slaves in Chains hard enough, to his Liking, the Commander upbraided, threaten'd, and box'd him, and ordered that he should immediately be put into Chains. He was still in Chains the 22<sup>d</sup>, and narrowly observed. Upon the 19<sup>th</sup> they gave all the *Argouzins* of the other Galleys the same Orders, not to take off the Fetters from any of the *Protestants*, which Orders were repeated upon the 22<sup>d</sup>, upon pain of the Gallows.

They add, That the said Officers went upon Sunday, September the 19<sup>th</sup>, on board the *Magnanime*, about the Refusal of putting off the Cap. For this is the only Pretence, when they have a mind to overwhelm the *Protestant Slaves* with Blows, and caused the Bastonade to be given to our Brethren that were there, to the number of Eight. And because they could not in the Morning overcome them, the same Punishment was inflicted again at Evening Prayers, in so barbarous a manner, that the very Thought of it strikes one with Horror.

#### 14 *The Cruelties of the French to*

Horror. When they were asking them, in the midst of their Torments, whether they would put off their Caps, or not; one of them answer'd the unrighteous Persecutor, *Strike; for the reason why I did expose my self as a Sacrifice, was not to put it off, but to let you know that I will never do it.* This we have from a *Popish* Slave in the same Galley, who call'd the *Chaplain* of it a *Hang-man*. And for fear lest *Alexander Astier*, *Pineau*, *Romageon* or *Capduc* should put their Hands on their deep Wounds, tho' they had much ado to lift them up, the Persecutors were so cruel as to load them with Manacles. The most couragious among them had them still. The 24<sup>th</sup> *Astier* sent word, he was very Ill, and desired the Prayers of the Brethren, and that he was resolv'd to die. For it was given out, that they were ordered to try him that very day by a fresh Onset.

The *Chaplain* of the *Warlick-Galley* has summoned, and charged the Slaves of his Galley to put off their Caps, under pain of the Bastonade. And because Mr. *Loftaler*, formerly one of the Parishioners of Mr. *La Placette*, and a very pious Gentleman, answered him very stoutly; the said *Chaplain* fell into a violent Passion, and threatened him mightily. The Brethren in that Galley

Galley are so narrowly kept, that it is almost impossible for one to come near them.

They have likewise threatned the *Protestant Slaves* on board the *Old Reale*, appointed for the disabled Slaves, with the *Bastonade*.

By Letters dated *October the 1st*, We hear, that on the *25th of September*, That they have once more given the *Bastonade* on the *Proud-Galley*, before the Major and the Captain.

That on the *27th and 28th* they did the same on the *Queen* and the *Dauphine Gallies*; that in the last mentioned the Boat-swain, immediately after Evening Prayers, ordered that *Fifty Blows* should be given to *Berru*, born in *Piedmont*, and to *Bonneval*, and this out of his own private Authority, to humour the barbarous Chaplain, who long'd for the Repast of this Sight: but such dealing is quite contrary to Equity and Order; otherwise these new Inquilitors and Executioners (the Boat-swains I mean) may when they please, and without any Form of Proceß, butcher these miserable Men.

That on the *29th*, *Alexander Astier* did suffer once more the *Bastonade* on the *Magnanime Galley*, and again the next day: This is the *Fourth* time he hath undergone this cruel Punishment. They add thereto,

that

that the *Lieutenant* of the said Galley came on board on purpose to have the said *Astier* be brought again to the same Torment ; but seeing he was not able to get up, he ordered the Surgeon to visit him, who found him sick of a great Fever, and almost dead. This was the reason why he was immediately sent to the *Hospital*, that it should not be said, that he died in the Galley of his Wounds. But there is no likelihood of his Recovery. The thing which has enraged these furious Men is, that this Young Man had, in the Torment of the second Bastonade, promised to put off his Cap ; but one of the Brethren having written to him with warmth and vigour, and represented to him the Reproach that he would by this base Inconstancy bring upon himself, upon the suffering Society, upon the Church, and upon their Religion ; it came to pass, within an hour and half after, that as the Papists were saying their Prayers, he gave Satisfaction for the Fault he had committed, and declared openly, *That his Weakness had betrayed him ; and that he had rather expiate his Crime by his Death, than to commit it again.* And when he was carried to the Hospital, bruised with Blows, and giving



ing up the Ghost, one of our Confessors seeing him, said with a loud Voice, *O! how lovely is he in the Condition in which he now is!*

On the 30th of September they gave again on the *Amazon Galley*, so cruel a Bastonade, that Blood came out of the Mouth of *Maurin Grefle*, by reason of the Blows given him.

October the 4th. They add, that the day before they had tied Mr. *Elias Maurin* with a Popish Slave, to make him that way assist at Mass, That he complained of this Violence, and hid himself under his Seat, saying, *He had rather die than comply.* He exhorted his Brethren to acquit themselves well in their Duty, being resolved to encourage them more-effectually by his own Example.

Moreover they send us these Particulars which happened on *Monday Morning, October the 4th.* They gave just now a general order either to put off the Cap, or to make an End of all those who will not do it. So that we do expect (say they) to see this Evening, or to Morrow, a great Butchery.

Such Order was punctually executed, as it may be seen by Letters written afterwards, dated *October the 11th, viz.* that Mr. *Peter Serres*, the eldest of these three worthy

worthy Brothers, has, together with three other Fellow-Sufferers, twice undergone the terrible Punishment of the Bastonade, that all their Limbs are most cruelly torn in pieces; that they are bruised and bloody all over by reason of their deep Wounds, insomuch, that the Blood gushed out of Mr. Serres's Side; and that he being left half dead upon the Coursey, some other Slaves were fain to take him up; and that they have bound his Hands with Manacles, as a further addition of Cruelty. Let them cry and complain never so much, this will not avail them if they do not comply. They strike without any pity; yea, with such Violence on the naked Body, that all the Blows go to the very Marrow, and make the Body rebound half a foot high. When they are weary of striking, they allow them rest to the next day, and then they begin again, and strike harder and harder on these mangled Bodies, and upon the same Wounds. Notwithstanding which, we are assured that these *Confessors* have suffered all these Outrages with an extraordinary and edifying Patience. Among those who underwent this painful Punishment, there were *La Grange* and *Pellevier*, who are very sick of it. Mr. *Elias Maurin*, a pious and  
zealous

zealous *Confessor*, whose Virtue and Constancy hath heretofore been tried in several sharp Encounters, has, with another of the same Galley, born all with great Bravery; together with two other Slaves of the *Fine-Galley*, viz. Mr. *Rullian*, and Mr. *Caralet*.

The Fury of these Executioners is grown to such Extremity, that they intended on the 11th of *October* in the Morning to inflict again the same Punishment upon Mr. *Serres* and some others, had not some Friends found out a way to send them to the *Hospital*, as a shelter from these new Outrages. They write that on the same Day, viz. the 12th, Mr. *Musson*, a *Vandois*, a very pious Man, together with the other Protestants in his Galley, were to undergo the same Trial. But at the end of the Letter they add, that the Execution was put off to the next Day. I have in my hands a Note from Mr. *Musson* to a Friend of his in those parts, by which it appears, that he prepares himself for his Sufferings with a holy and entire Submission. It is given out that the Storm will reach all the other Gallies, and that the same Punishment will be inflicted on all our Brethren that are Slaves in the ten Gallies that went out about a Quarter of a Year ago, and which will soon, it's thought, return.

turn. So that these poor People will be so far from enjoying some Ease in the Haven, after the hard Fatigues of their Campaign, that they will meet with a Storm in the Harbour far more dreadful than any they have endured at Sea.

The Letters from *Marseilles*, dated *October* the 15<sup>th</sup>, represent unto us, the Torments our Brethren are put to, thus; The Wheel on which the *Martyrs of our Blessed Lord* formerly expired was very sweet, if compared with the Bitterness of our Sufferings; because their Torments proceeded without Intermission till Death gave them the Crown of *Martyrdom*. But our Punishment, which pierces into the very Bones, which bruises, which tears the Skin off to the Blood, which makes all the Back swell with a multitude of Blows given with a Rope done over with Pitch and Tar, and dipt half a foot into the Sea, and which leaves a Man half dead by reason of One hundred and twenty Blows given at one Beating by a lusty *Turk*, and who leaves us in that wretched Condition, in order to begin again in the Afternoon, or the next Morning, as fiercely and cruelly as ever, permitting these miserable Men to live thus, that this barbarous usage may be the  
more

more lasting, and that they may be put naked again upon the Coursey. There is something, I say, in this Punishment more dreadful and terrible than the Wheel: For they are upon the point of Death, and yet they are not put to Death; and the Executioners never give over striking till they be weary and out of Breath, and forced to send the Sufferers to the *Hospital*. Who can forbear trembling, and being deeply affected at the Sight of so amazing a Spectacle? Who could believe that such as bear the Name of Christians could harden their Bowels to that degree, as to inflict such horrible Torments?

The same Letter of *October* the 16<sup>th</sup> acquaints us with that which follows. As to Particulars, I must tell you, with unspeakable Grief, that all the Gallies almost have been severely treated, except the *Old Reale*, appointed for the disabled Slaves, and some others: And that they have cruelly butchered all those who would not put off the Cap; insomuch, that in some Gallies six or seven Slaves, or more, of the same Galley, have been stretched on the Rack, and struck 50, 100, and 120 times, with a Rope in many places done over with Pitch and Tar, and dipt into the Sea, and that they have

22 *The Cruelties of the French to*

have inflicted twice, thrice, four times, or more, this cruel Punishment on them, till they had promised to put the Cap off, or that the Tormentors had been forced to send them to the *Hospital*.

After that, they speak of what we mentioned before concerning Mr. *Serres*, to whom they gave the Bastonade twice, and sent him last Sunday very sick to the Hospital. He is still there, and a little better. They add to it, that Mr. *Maurin* underwent the same Torment three, and I think four times; and he was last Munday shut up in one of the *Dungeons* of the Hospital. Thus Mr. *Carriere* and Mr. *Loftalet* have been twice most cruelly abused, having received at one and the same time six Score Blows each, so that they have been forced to send them away very sick, raw and bruised, to the Hospital. Mr. *Loftalet* hath been all along constant and steady, as well as Mr. *Serres*, *Maurin*, *Grange*, and *Pelevier*, and are all now in the Hospital very sick with the Blows they received. They add, that Mr. *Loftalet* was exposed to so great Sufferings, that he is not able to stir out of his Bed, but by the Help of some Ropes hanging down from the Ceiling, and of some Men besides. Mr. *Seignieres* hath al-

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so undergone the Bastonade and is extremely ill of it. The *Major* declared to day, that they would let them alone till they are recovered, and then they should be rack'd again and again till they should either die, or promise to put their Caps off to the Hoste.

These *faithful Confessors* begg'd leave to let them go into the Sinks, or into the filthiest and darkest Places of the Benches. But the *Papists* are not so kind now, as they were last Winter, to the *Confessors* on board the *Old Reale*; for they could never be prevailed upon to grant them any thing. Some body address'd an humble Petition to the *Intendant*; begging of him the favour to discountenance such Outrages, and to let these *Confessors* remain in the Sinks; but he was deaf to their Entreaties. On the contrary, they caused all the Brethren of 6 or 7 Galleys to be stretch'd the next day, or the day following, upon the Coursey, who courageously refused to put off their Caps. They have done the like in all the Galleys, but no Execution as yet in that wherein our *dear and honoured old Confessors* are. This is a piece of the *Missionary's* Policy, who keep them, no doubt, for the end of the *Tragedy*; and that they may be reckoned  
very

24 *The Cruelties of the French to*

very indulgent, because they are the sole Masters of that Affair, there being no Captain to command in that Galley ; and that no Man may look on them as the Authors of these Barbarities. But they put on to no purpose the *Sheeps-Skin*, they are for all that ravenous Wolves within. For they are the only cause of these Punishments, having written to the Court, and given a thousand false Representations of the Sufferings of our Brethren, and of their Behaviour. They are likewise the Cause why the *Commanders* and the *Majors* have received strict Orders, nay, that they have been chidden for having on some Occasions been too remiss. Notwithstanding we have it from good Hands, that some Friends of this suffering Society, having written, and spoken in their behalf to some *Ministers* of the *French Court*, and desired them to put an end to the Torments inflicted on these innocent Men, it was answered them, that they were not worse dealt with, than the other Slaves. Either ( say they ) these *Gentlemen* do not know the thing, or they tolerate those who abuse us. Its well known at *Marseilles*, that they do not deal so well by far with our Brethren as they do with the other Slaves. For *Profligate Wretches*,

*Wretches*, if compared with these *faithful Confessors* ( who make no noise, nor do any injury to any body ) *Profligate Wretches*, I say, have leave to have their Chains taken off, and to go into the Town about their Business. But our Brethren are all debarr'd this Indulgence, nay, their Relations and Friends are kept off from seeing them; and which is worst of all, they bruise and flay them alive, upon pretence that they will not put off their Caps, when they are saying Mass.

The Papists object, that when they came into our Churches, they put off their Hats, and consequently we must do the like when they are performing their divine Service. But our Brethren answered, that it was quite another thing; for the Papists went willingly and out of their own accord to our Churches, but they are sentenced to the Galleys, because they will not adhere to an erroneous Worship, and being bound in Chains there, they cannot come out of them when the Papists are there at their Religious Exercises. Our Brethren endeavoured to hide themselves in Places where they could not be seen; and now, say they, we are prosecuted for refusing to do a thing, *viz.* to put off our Caps, which

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we cannot do unless we betray our Consciences, for this would be a tacit consent to their Doctrine and Worship.

The Papists reply, That putting ones Cap off is no great matter, and that they do not intend thereby to have us believe their Doctrine. But when they have prevail'd upon them to put off the Cap, their Design is to oblige them to turn their Faces towards the Stern, where they are saying Mass, and lifting up the Hoste, as they have done with some of them.

By Letters dated *October* the 29<sup>th</sup>, we hear, That the Galleys which were at Sea are come back again, and that the *faithful Protestants* who are on them prepare themselves to suffer with an entire Submission, whatever happens: And we are at the same time told, that those *Confessors* who were on board the Galleys that had not been strictly searched, have undergone the horrid Tryal of repeated Bastonades, except the *Old Reale*, wherein are the disabled Slaves. We hear likewise, that the *faithful Confessors*, who bravely suffered the cruel Bastonades, and who are miraculously cured of their deep Wounds, are sentenced to die in dark and deep *Dungeons*, that there may be no witness of their Constancy.

cy. Particularly *Peter de Serres* Senior, a worthy *Confessor*, who has been removed into the Island of *Hierres*, where they have fitted for him, and many others, the last Place of their Punishment, viz. the bottom of a Tower, so deep, that one cannot go down to it but by the help of a long Ladder, and nothing is to be found there, but a thick and soft Mire full of Toads, and such lothsome Insects.

You have here a true Account of the most barbarous Sufferings that ever any *Martyr* was exposed unto; when they made Complaints of it to the Ministers of the *French Court* in Foreign parts, they said it was but a Tale; and when they acquainted at *Paris* the Ministers of State with it, they have in like manner said, there was no Truth in the Matter. This is indeed a Riddle to us. For if these Gentlemen, who seem so incredulous, know the Truth of the thing, it is surprising that they should deny a Matter of Fact so notorious, and indeed acted before the Sun, and before a multitude of Eye-witnesses. But Charity obliges us to believe that the Ministers of the *French Court*, and the King himself, are not perfectly informed of the Outrages that are committed. Moreover,

28 *The Cruelties of the French to*

we do not wonder at their Unbelief, because there are in this horrible case many things scarcely to be believed. It is *incredible*, that Men who pretend to be *Christians* should commit such barbarous Cruelties. It is likewise *incredible*, that Men compounded of *Flesh* and *Blood*, and as weak as other Men, should be able to suffer five or six times this terrible Punishment: we will not say without dying, for some are already dead of it, in Torments as grievous as those miserable Creatures suffer whose Bones are broken on the Scaffold, and are left in that Condition on the Wheel, till they have breathed out their last. Some Persons have done all they could to let the King be informed of these horrid Transactions, which are enough to make the most *barbarous Cannibal* quake and tremble. And these suffering Confessors have addrest their humble Petitions to the Court, wherein their Miseries were faithfully represented. There hath been but one of all these Petitions returned with this answer; *This is to be proved*; but care was immediately taken to stop all the Ways and Means of doing it. We cannot duly represent the Horror of their Punishment: You have here the Description of it word for word as it was sent



sent us. — They stretch the naked Body on the Coursey; and sometimes they compel some of their faithful Brethren, who are appointed to suffer the same Martyrdom, to hold them fast by the Feet and Hands, that these Confessors being terrified with the Horror of the Torment, and the barbarous Service they are forced to do, should yield before they be put to the Torture. And the strongest Turk on board the Galley strikes with all his Might the naked Body with a Rope done over with Pitch and Tar, and dips in the Sea. And by the force of these dreadful Blows the Body rebounds above half a foot high from the Place whereon it is extended, and falls down again. They strike till all the Skin and Flesh of the Back is torn off to the very Ribs, which becomes all of a gore Blood, and one entire Wound, upon which the Surgeon, instead of Balsam, pours Salt and Vinegar, after having opened with a Razor the Wounds that are not open enough.

One may easily conceive the Pains of a Body all bloody, all torn, and bathed all over with Vinegar and Salt. Barbarity it self never contrived a Torment so inhumane. And if Mankind doth not rise up in Indignation against such Cruelties, surely the Bowels of Humanity and Pity are perished amongst Men.

30 *The Cruelties of the French to*

If the profligate Slaves mutine and rebel, they are condemned to suffer twenty or thirty Blows. But as for our innocent Confessors, they are condemned to three or four Hundred Cuts with a Cord, given indeed at several Times, because if they were given without Intermission, they would die in the Execution. But as it is they are left more than half dead, without Skin and without Flesh on their Backs, and when they see them almost expiring they carry them to the Hospital. They take care indeed to heal their Wounds, but to what intent? onely to put them into a Condition to endure the same Punishment again. Ah! cruel Mercy! which rescues Men from Death to expose them to Torment a thousand Times worse than dying. If after these painful Tryals, they are shut up in dark Dungeons, 'tis only to bury them alive; but howe'er, they look on this sort of Burial as a great favour.

If they can find no Help on Earth, they will appeal to the Tribunal of the Righteous God above; and waiting for that dreadful Day wherein those *who shew no Mercy, shall find Judgment without Mercy.* Our blessed Confessors entreat all Men in general to have Pity on them; for this is  
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the Cause of *Humane Nature*. But particularly, they entreat the Compassions of their Brethren, of what Condition, Countrey, and Language soever, Kings, States, Magistrates, People, Pastors, Flocks, Rich and Mighty, that every one would, in their several Places and Stations, apply themselves to find out Ways and Means of mitigating their Sorrows: on the account of which the Church crys out, *All ye that pass by, behold and see if there be any Sorrow like unto my Sorrow, which is done unto me, wherewith the Lord hath afflicted me in the day of his fierce Anger.*

Their pretence for their Cruelty is, because these holy Martyrs refuse to put off their Caps when the Hoste is lifted up. But if they refuse it from a Principle of Conscience, the Persecutors become Murtherers both of Body and Soul, by pushing Mens Consciences to such Extremities. The Tyrants of old, who were visibly acted by the Devil, were not so violently enraged against the Servants of God. Some of them for fear of their Torments, presented their Petitions to the *Magistrates*, begging leave to be excused from being present at the Heathen Sacrifices, and alledged several Excuses which were very often received.

But

### 32 *The Cruelties of the French to*

But the Church did never approve of them. These *weak Persons* were put into the Number and List of the *Lapsed*, who were to do publick Penance; and were called *Libellatici*. Nothing else was required of those who were drag'd to the *Altars of false Gods*, but to throw a grain of *Frankincense* into the Fire; But the *true Christians* chose rather to suffer Death than to do it. And yet the presenting of a *Petition* to be excused, or throwing a grain of *Incense* into the Fire, is not more, but perhaps much less than to put off one's Cap, in order to reverence and give Religious Worship to that which is not God. This serves to make it appear, that the Constancy of our Confessors is neither *Stubbornness*, nor strong *Prejudice*, as their Persecutors pretend. But granting it to be an invincible Prejudice, is it not an inconceivable Madness to be so cruelly bent against a Person under such Prejudice? Ought not a simple Prejudice to be pitied? especially when it does no *Ill to God nor Man*? Would the *Romish Church* be more disesteem'd, because there would be some prejudiced Persons who would not adhere to her Worship? And is she now ever the more valued for having extorted, by an hundred repeated Tortures, *some counterfeit Homages*? That

That which is required of these *blessed Confessors* is, either a *Religious Honour*, or a *Civil Respect*, such as is done to the Statue of a *Prince*. If it be a *Religious Honour*, it is to us *downright Idolatry*. Now, to force Men to a Worship they look upon as *Idolatrous*, is a piece of Barbarity practised only by *Heathen Persecutors*. They must not say as some Ministers of the *French Court in Switzerland*, that we must pay an Honour to the Religion of our Prince. For our Conscience will not bear such Management. The *Heathen Idolaters* alledg'd the same Reason to the *Christians*, who would not throw a *Grain of Incense* to the Gods of the *Emperours*. If this Honour required be a civil Respect, it is a Fury beyond all Aggravation, to extort civil Respects by such horrible, repeated, and mortal Cruelties. No reasonable Master ever hang'd his Servant or *broke him upon the Wheel*, for the Neglect of his Cap.

## Postscript.

THIS Account was lately printed in Holland, and is confirmed by *unquestionable Advice* sent us in many Letters from other Parts, representing the worse than *Pagan Barbarities* done to our renowned Brethren in the *French Gallies*, who after the most cruel Persecution of 15 years remain glorious Confessors of the *reformed Religion*; as we see in the mournful Instances briefly represented in this Paper: which is far from being a full Account of their Miseries. For, besides the many others who have suffered the *cruel Bastonade*, there is no particular Mention made of those other excellent and illustrious Men who are miserably kept in *dark and dismal Dungeons*, in all the Circumstances of Horror and Inhumanity: as Monsieur *le Februe* in the Castle of *St. John*; Monsieur *de Lanfonniere* and Monsieur *Serres* the Younger in the Castle of *St. Nicholas*; Monsieur *Mounier* in the Castle of *Yeff*; Messieurs *Carrieres*, two  
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Brothers, in different Dungeons in the same Castle; and Monsieur *Fabian* the Profelyte in another Dungeon. I shall name no more, since these serve to give a most splendid Testimony to the *Reformed Religion*, like to that which the same Truths received about 1700 Years ago, when they first appeared in the World. And perhaps *Infinite Wisdom* sees it expedient to give new Proof of the Value of the *Holy Gospel* in these last Days of it, to render the Purity of its Doctrine more dear to such as do but too coolly embrace it, as well as more conspicuous to such as prophanely reject it.

It is therefore hop'd, that all Lovers of the *reformed Religion* will piously disperse these important Papers far and near amongst their Acquaintance in this and other Nations, to convince the World of the divine Truth and infinite worth of *Protestancy*, and of the inhumane Cruelty and Antichristian Spirit of *Popery*.

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## ADVERTISEMENT.

**T**Here is in the Press, a very *Pious Exhortation* to these great Sufferers to persevere in the *true Faith*, notwithstanding all the *Barbarities* done them. Written by one of their *Fellow Sufferers*. Likewise done out of *French*, and printed on the same Paper and Letter with this, very fit to be stich'd to it.

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